(e) Modernisation of the post office is a continuing process involving induction of relevant technology and its upgradation to keep pace with changing needs of the service. The programme of providing computer-based counter machines will be a part of the department's Annual Plan Programmes to cover all suitable post offices subject to availability of adequate resources.

Statement

Number of Post Offices State-wise provided with Computer based counter Machines

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Post Offices with computer based counter machines
1.	Andhra Pradesh	51
2.	Assam	06
3.	Bihar	17
4.	Delhi	60
5.	Gujarat	61
6.	Goa	03
7.	Haryana	20
8.	Himachal Pradesh	28
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	06
10.	Karnataka	53
11.	Kerala	63
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19
13.	Maharashtra	72
14.	Tripura	01
15.	Manipur	01
16.	Nagaland	01
17.	Meghalaya	02
18.	Mizoram	01
19.	Orissa	12
20.	Punjab	26
21.	Rajasthan	20
22.	Tamilnadu	80
23.	Uttar Pradesh	46
24.	West Bengal	07
	Total	658

Setting up of Special Environmental Courts

566. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noted the observations of the Supreme Court suggesting setting up of special Environmental Courts to deal with violations of environment laws as per article published in the Hindustan Times, dated 19th February, 1996 under the column ""Law and Justice".

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken so far in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to strengthen institutional machinery both at the Centre and at the States level so as to enforce anti-pollution laws and to ensure that heads of units/agencies personally made accountable for any lapses in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) After the observations of the Supreme Court in the Oleum gas leak case at Shriram Foods & Fertilizer Industries Ltd., Delhi, suggesting setting up of Environmental Courts, the Government has enacted a legislation called the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 which provides for strict liability for damages arising out of any accident occurring while handling any hazardous substance. This Act provides for establishment of a National Environment Tribunal for effective and expeditious disposal of cases arising from such accidents. The Ministry reviews the performance of the institutional mechanisms and takes necessary steps from time to time for strengthening them further, whenever necessary. The heads of units/agencies are accountable for lapses in this regard.

Violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

567. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints pertaining to violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?